

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 IO-10 EB-07 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CPR-01 PRS-01 L-02

AID-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 /079 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:RDLORTON:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON

NEA/INS:DKUX

NEA:LBLAINGEN

EA/PRCM:TSBROOKS (INFO)

IO/UNP:JWASHBURN (INFO)

EB/ITP/OT/GCP:DMORRISON (INFO)

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R 182015Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012816

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, XD

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KHANAL'S MEETING WITH ASSISTANT

SECRETARY ATHERTON

SUMMARY: DURING CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON
JANUARY 14, NEPALESE AMBASSADOR KHANAL REQUESTED PROMPT
DECISION ON U.S. DELEGATION TO CORONATION, EXPRESSED GON
DESIRE TO BENEFIT OUT OF INDO-U.S. AND INDO-CHINESE
FRIENDSHIP, INQUIRED ABOUT STATE OF CHINA-U.S. AND
INDIA-U.S. RELATIONS, AND ASKED FOR U.S. SUPPORT AND
ADVICE FOR NEPAL'S EFFORTS TO GAIN NEEDED ECONOMIC
INPUTS, INCLUDING BENEFITS OF TRADE BILL. ATHERTON
PROMISED FOLLOW-UP ON DELEGATION QUESTION, REAFFIRMED
U.S. POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR NEPAL'S INDEPENDENCE AND
DEVELOPMENT, BRIEFED KHANAL ON MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS, AND
REASSURED KHANAL IMPROVED INDO-U.S. RELATIONS WOULD NOT
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BE AT EXPENSE OF OTHER COUNTRIES OF SOUTH ASIA. END

SUMMARY.

2. NEPALESE AMBASSADOR YADU NATH KHANAL, ACCOMPANIED BY NEPALESE PERMREP S.K. UPADHYAY AND FIRST SECRETARY RIMAL, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON JANUARY 14 PRIOR TO HIS RETURN TO KATHMANDU TO ATTEND KING BIRENDRA'S CORONATION. LORTON SAT IN.

3. KHANAL NOTED GON'S DESIRE FOR PROMPT DECISION ON U.S. CORONATION DELEGATION. KHANAL CALLED GON RELATIONS WITH U.S. "PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT" NOW AND HOPED STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN DELEGATION. ATHERTON REASSURED KHANAL DELEGATION WOULD BE HIGH LEVEL, THAT USG ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO IT, AND THAT THIS WAS ONE REASON DECISION WAS TAKING SO LONG. HE PROMISED LOOK INTO STATUS AGAIN.

4. KHANAL TOUCHED ON DISAGREEMENT OVER CAMBODIAN ISSUE SAYING WHILE MOST GON DECISIONS WERE MADE WITHIN GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF NON-ALIGNED, POSITIONS REFLECTED GON JUDGEMENT ON MERITS OF ISSUES AT STAKE. ATHERTON NOTED WE WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH NEPALESE VOTE, BUT THAT EVEN IF WE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO AGREE WE HAD AT LEAST BEEN ABLE TO TALK THINGS OVER.

5. KHANAL NOTED NEPALESE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WITH INDIA AND THOUGHT GOI RESTRICTIONS OUT OF STEP WITH TRADITIONAL INDO-NEPAL RELATIONS. ASSERTING THAT NEPAL'S FUTURE LAY IN RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND INDIA, AND INDIA AND CHINA, KHANAL SAID NEPALESE WISHED TO BENEFIT OUT OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THOSE COUNTRIES. HE HOPED IN PARTICULAR THAT AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SAXBE WOULD MAINTAIN HIS INTEREST IN NEPAL AND ASKED TO SEE HIM TO MAKE THESE SAME POINTS. ATHERTON AGREED SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE USEFUL.

6. ATHERTON SAID U.S. WAS SEEKING BETTER AND MORE STABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA THAT WOULD NOT BE AT EXPENSE OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY. HE REAFFIRMED HIS SEPTEMBER CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY, SAID THERE WAS NO CONFIDENTIAL

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CHANGE IN HIS STATEMENT THAT U.S. CONTINUES TO STRONGLY SUPPORT NEPAL'S CONTINUED INDEPENDENT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

7. ATHERTON SAW INDO-U.S. RELATIONS AS DEVELOPING IN A POSITIVE WAY, NOTING WE STILL HAD DIFFERENCES BUT THAT WE WERE NOW ENGAGED IN DIALOGUE RATHER THAN PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS. WE ARE PROCEEDING WITHOUT EXAGERRATED

EXPECTATIONS AS TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE CAN AGREE.

8. KHANAL FOLLOWED UP WITH FREQUENTLY STATED CONCERN OVER SECRETARY'S REFERENCE TO INDIAN LEADERSHIP DURING HIS SOUTH ASIAN TRIP. ATHERTON SAID SECRETARY DID NOT MEAN TO IMPLY INDIAN HEGEMONY IN THE AREA BUT RATHER WAS SIMPLY RECOGNIZING A FACT. TO KHANAL'S COMMENT THAT LEADERS IMPLY FOLLOWERS, ATHERTON REPLIED THAT WOULD BE A MISINTERPRETATION OF WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID,

THAT WE DID NOT EXPECT THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTH ASIA TO ADAPT TO INDIAN POLICIES IN SITUATIONS WHERE THEIR OWN INTERESTS DICTATED OTHERWISE.

9. ATHERTON SAID IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND CHINA WERE NOT MOVING VERY MUCH, THAT PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVEMENT WERE PERHAPS LESS NOW THAN THEY SEEMED TO BE BEFORE, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF CHINESE CONCERN OVER SIKKIM. HE SAW U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS AS ON COURSE. KHANAL WONDERED ABOUT JUSTIFICATION FOR PLANNED PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO CHINA IN 1975; HE SAW LITTLE PROGRESS BEYOND SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE. ATHERTON SAID HE THOUGHT COMMUNIQUE'S PRINCIPLES HAD BEEN CONSOLIDATED AND THAT OUR RELATIONS WERE MOVING ALONG ABOUT AS WE ANTICIPATED.

10. COMMENTING THAT NEPAL WOULD LIKE TO CONVERT FROM AID TO TRADE OVER THE LONG RUN, KHANAL SAID NEPAL WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS OF THE RECENTLY PASSED TRADE BILL. ATHERTON SUGGESTED KHANAL MIGHT WANT TO SEE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS FOR A FURTHER DISCUSSION. KISSINGER

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